Principles for Integrated Care

After considering the substantial public input and comment over the past year, the Department intends to determine the next steps based on the following seven principles:

1. A new system should provide the greatest value to Maryland consumers. Individuals and families should be able to access the right services at the right time to remain as healthy and productive as possible.

2. A new system should support effective models of integrated care. These models include health homes, where medical treatment and behavioral health care not only are provided at the same location, but as components of a single treatment plan for the whole person.

3. A new system should prioritize the needs of the seriously ill. Special attention must be paid to assure coordinated care for especially vulnerable Marylanders who experience severe mental illness or substance abuse disorders.

4. A new system should integrate financing for substance abuse and mental health treatment services. Given the high degree of comorbidity, our financing system should not fracture along the lines of diagnoses within behavioral health.

5. A new system should provide payment on the basis of performance, value and outcome, and not just volume. Such payment reform transformations are occurring throughout the health care financing and delivery systems for all payers and services, and the behavioral health system must join this movement to align incentives with prevention and health for Marylanders.

6. A new system should include a strong role for local oversight and engagement. The financing system should provide comprehensive service and outcome data to localities. Currently, localities receive only a fraction of important data about the care of their residents. More full information will allow for the identification of unmet needs and the design of programs to address them.

7. A new system should be able to coordinate well with other systems, including the criminal justice, education, and child welfare systems, to promote social outcomes such as successful community reintegration, adoptions and permanent placements, school achievement, and others.